Phillipians 2:12-18 Bible study.

Opening prayer(for the Bible study)):
Heavenly Father,
We thank You for the gift of Your Word that gives light to our path and strength to our hearts.
As we open the Scriptures today, may Your Holy Spirit open our eyes and understanding.
Teach us to live out our salvation with humility and obedience, just as Christ did.
Help us to receive Your Word not only with our minds but with our hearts, so that our lives may reflect Your will in all things.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Introduction):
In the previous verses of Philippians 2:1-11, Paul spoke about the humility and obedience of Christ, how Jesus lowered Himself to serve others and was exalted by God.
Now, in verses 12-18, Paul builds on that by calling believers to live out their salvation, not as a one-time event, but as a daily walk that reflects Christ's example.
This passage challenges us to live in obedience, without complaint, and with joy, even in difficult circumstances. It reminds us that God is working within us to make us willing and able to do His will, and that our lives should shine as lights in a dark world.

(all verses are in the Bible translation of GNT(Good News Translation))

Verse 12):
12 So then, dear friends, as you always obeyed me when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey me now while I am away from you. Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation,

- Paul is not saying to work for your salvation. If so, it would be contradicting, and be the complete opposite of what Paul has said before. And other scripture in the Bible.
- What Paul is saying is to walk out our salvation to completion.
- Here it is saying to walk out our life in Christ. Walking our life in salvation here means to live out our lives for Christ in this context.

Verse 13):
13 because God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose.

- God is always at work in us, to make us willing and able to walk in Christ.
- And sometimes our own will can come in conflict with God's. And because of the freedom God has given us, for free moral choice. God won't take that away. We can make the choice to follow in the will of God or not.
- But God will also let us face the consequences of that decision as well. If we choose not to follow in His will.
- We can walk in the will of Christ through the fear of Christ. To fear and tremble going against the will of God. And through the help of Christ, admitting our weaknesses as people and individuals. So that we can humbly and fearfully say only you Christ can help me to live a life God wants from me.

Verse 14):

14 Do everything without complaining or arguing,

- The Greek word that the word complain comes from means one that is discontented with life.
- So when we complain, we are telling God that we are unhappy or dissatisfied with Him. Meaning that we want something more than God. We are telling God that we want something more than him.

Verse 15):

15 so that you may be innocent and pure as God's perfect children, who live in a world of corrupt and sinful people. You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky,

- This is saying that complaining is actually a sin.
- But we are called to be righteous, a light to people.

Verse 16):

16 as you offer them the message of life. If you do so, I shall have reason to be proud of you on the Day of Christ, because it will show that all my effort and work have not been wasted.

- So pretty much it is saying for us that we should complete the walk of Christ so that in the end it will be all worth it.
- So that all our work in Christ will be worth it.

Verse 17):

17 Perhaps my life's blood is to be poured out like an offering on the sacrifice that your faith offers to God. If that is so, I am glad and share my joy with you all.

- Paul saw his life as something being poured out for the Lord.
- A drink offering was something Jews, and even pagans back then used for sacrifice.
- So Paul is pretty much saying that he is willing to sacrifice his life for God.
- And that if this is the case, which it later would be, I will do so in joy.

Verse 18):

18 In the same way, you too must be glad and share your joy with me.

- And in the same way, we must share in the same joy Paul had. That even in the face of persecution and death, that joy was not taken away. The joy that Paul had in Christ.

Conclusion):

Paul’s message in Philippians 2:12-18 teaches us that our salvation is not something we work for, but something we live out.

God’s power is constantly working in us, shaping us into people who reflect Christ’s humility and obedience to God. We are called to live without complaining or arguing, so that our light can shine in a world that desperately needs the hope/light that Christ gives.

Even when life is difficult, even when serving Christ comes with sacrifice, we can still rejoice. Like Paul, our joy is not based on comfort, but on knowing that our lives honor God. Knowing that our faith will not be in vain, but we have to walk the walk, until the end.

Closing prayer):
Lord Jesus,
Thank You for reminding us through Your Word that You are always at work in us. Help us to walk in obedience of Your Word, without complaining, and with joyful hearts.
Teach us to live out our salvation every day, not in our own strength, but through Your power at work within us.
May our lives shine as lights wherever we go, bringing glory to Your name.
Keep our faith strong, and our hearts humble. Until the day we see You face to face.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.